

## **MINUTES**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order by Chair, Mr. Hebert, at 7:00 pm.

### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **III. ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Mr. Hebert, Mr. Steere, Mr. Skeffington and Ms. Anne E. Ejnes, Ms. Mary Elizabeth Keeling, and Mr. Steven A. Sette. Mr. Mainville, Business Manager, and Mr. Piccirilli and Mr. Robert Wallace, Superintendent, were also in attendance.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Steere and seconded by Mr. Skeffington that the actions of the School Committee at the meeting scheduled on January 20, 2009 Open Meeting and Executive Session (sealed) be approved as presented.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

### **V. APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Motion by Mrs. Keeling seconded by Mr. Skeffington that the approval of bills dated 1/1/2009 to 1/31/2009 in the amount of \$412,035.51 be approved as presented.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

### **VI. TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE**

Mr. Burlingame is the Town Council's liaison to the School Committee was not present at this time in the meeting. Mr. Hebert informed the Committee that the Glocester and Foster School Committees are meeting with the Foster and Glocester Town Councils on February 26, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Eddy building in Foster to discuss the 2009-2010 budgets.

### **VII. NECAP TEST SCORES**

Dr. Bowen, Principal at West Glocester Elementary School, gave the School Committee a presentation and explained the meaning of the percentages of the NECAP Test Scores in comparison to the State and District scores. Overall the Glocester Elementary Schools scores exceeded the State average in Reading, Math, and Writing. Dr. Bowen

commended the Teaching staff for their effort and hard work improving the learning skills of the Gloucester students.

## **VIII. BUS MONITORS**

The Agenda item was opened for discussion by Mr. Hebert. Discussion ensued but no votes or actions were taken pending the outcome at the State level.

## **IX. BUDGET 2008-2009**

On a motion by Mrs. Ejnes and seconded by Mr. Skeffington the School Committee adopted and accepted the 2008-2009 Budget. Mr. Mainville reassured the School Committee that the need to adjust line items due to retirements, fuel costs and the bus contract will not affect the bottom line. Motion passed 6-0-0.

## **X. BUDGET 2009-2010**

Mr. Burlingame, Town Council liaison to the School Committee, expressed the concern of a possible \$525,000 short fall due to state cuts and the need for everyone to work together and find solutions. Mr. Mainville explained that the numbers look good for now but that there are too many unknown variables at this stage. The concern for the tax rate not going above 4.75% was expressed by Mr. Burlingame.

Mr. Sette expressed that the Capital Budget remain available for repairs and maintenance for the buildings instead of being used for budget short falls.

## **XI. BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Chris Hebert un-appointed himself from the Committee and Mr. Steere, Mrs. Ejnes and Mr. Sette will volunteer for the Budget Sub-Committee.

## **XII. NEGOTIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Sette, Mrs. Keeling and Mr. Hebert will comprise the Negotiation team for the School Committee and Mr. Burlingame of the Town Council, as Liaison, will side bar.

## **XIII. REGIONAL/GLOCESTER MUTUAL EXPENSE ASSISTANCE**

Mr. Sette asked that this item be table until the Sub-Committee meets. All agreed.

## **XIV. LONG TERM OIL CONTRACT**

A motion by Mr. Skeffington and seconded by Mrs. Ejnes to authorize the Business Manager to enter into negotiations for a long term oil contract. Mr. Piccirilli will advise on a bidding process. Motion passes 6-0-0.

## **XV. AUDIT**

Mr. Mainville provided the Committee with copies of the Audit. There was no discussion and was tabled to the March meeting due to scheduling conflicts for the Auditor.

## **XVI. BUS CONTRACT**

This item was moved to Executive Session.

## **XVII. DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES**

A motion by Mrs. Ejnes and seconded by Mr. Sette to forward copies of the approved minutes to both Public Gloucester Libraries and the Gloucester Senior Center.  
Motion passes 6-0-0.

## **XVIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Personnel – Resignations/Leaves/Appointments/Layoffs**

1. A motion by Mrs. Ejnes and seconded by Mrs. Keeling to accept THE Superintendent's recommendation for a one month leave of absence for Maureen Babbitt due to health issues. Motion passes 6-0-0.

2. Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 16-13-2, Mr. Wallace recommended the employment for the following teachers be non-renewed for the 2009-2010 school year:

Jean Aldous  
Margaret Fallon-Pelletier  
Deidre Jordan  
Christine Meinertz  
Joan Osmanski  
Jill Richard  
Jason Whitford

On a motion from Mr. Skeffington and seconded by Mr. Steere, the Committee accepted the Superintendent's recommendation as set forth in the layoff letter sent to the above teachers, i.e., "the level of state and local funding for the upcoming year is uncertain...employment may be adversely affected by budget driven economy and/or declining enrollment." Lisa Sargent expressed the Teachers dislike for 20 lay-offs and strongly protest such severe cuts but would remain stewards to the system and students. Mr. Sette expressed his concern for the anxiety a situation like this creates. He understands the process but state laws need to change. Mr. Hebert expressed his understanding of the teachers but the Committee also has a responsibility to the tax payers of Gloucester. Mrs. Ejnes conveyed her distaste for these lay-offs but indicated she realizes the Committee's hands are tied by state rules.  
Motion passed. 6-0-0

#### **XIV. COMMUNICATIONS**

None at this time.

#### **XV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The following items are to be included on next month's agenda –

- Glocester Special Education Staffing Policy
- Regional/Glocester Mutual Expense Assistance
- Long-term Fuel Oil Contract
- Audit
- 2008-2009 Budget
- 2009-2010 Budget
- Liaison to PTO
- Additional Sub -Committees for Budget discussions

#### **XVI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

#### **XVII. Move to Executive Session per RI General Laws (42-46) Open Meeting Law**

Motion by Mr. Steere seconded by Mrs. Keeling, that the Committee recess into Executive Session per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 at 8:37 pm to consider Collective Bargaining/Contract Negotiations/Busing contracts/Grievances/Potential Litigation - Special Education. Motion passed 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Sette, seconded by Mrs. Keeling that the Committee reconvene to Open Session at 9:03 pm. Motion passed 6-0-0.

#### **XVIII. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Motion by Mr. Sette seconded by Mrs. Ejnes, to seal the minutes of Executive Session.

- a. General Disclosure of Executive Session Procedures
- b. Disclosure of any votes taken -
  - 1. None. Motion passed 6-0-0.

#### **XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Sette seconded by Mrs. Keeling that the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m. Motion passes 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

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**Helena McCullough**